participation in the domestic air transport services:—

1. Foreign equity upto 40% and NRI/OBC investment upto 100% would be permitted in the domestic air transport services.

2. Equity from foreign airlines will, however, not be allowed directly, or indirectly, in the domestic air transport services.

3. The extisting companies operating in the domestic air transport sector in which equity is held by foreign airlines, directly or indirectly, will be advised to disinvest equity held by foreign airlines within a period of six months.

Thus equity participation by foreign airlines alone is not permissible under the new policy. This has been due to protect the nescent domestic civil aviation industry.

Demand to Re-introduce Delhi-Rajkot flight via Udaipur

4000. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flight from Delhi-Rajkot was discontinued in the year 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is demand to re-introduce the Delhi-Rajkot flight via Udaipur;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This service was withdrawn due to inadequate traffic.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present, Indian Airlines has no plans to reintroduce the service due to the constraint of aircraft capacity.

Neglect of Patna Airport by Airlines

4001. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Airlines, Alliance Air and Private airlines have neglected Patna airports as very few services connect this airport and even metropolitan and other big citis are not connected to Patna by air;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard so as to connect Patna by air with major cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating regular air services from Patna connecting Delhi, Culcutta and Mumbai besides linking Lucknow and Ranchi.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Issue of Advance Import Licences under Export Commitement Scheme

4002. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after liberalisation, Government have issued Advance Import Licences under the Export Commitment Scheme, if so, the number thereof during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether Government have verified the number of cases who fulfilled obligations in terms of dues in Rupees/s and value and if so, details thereof indicating separately those who fulfilled the commitments and those who did not under the above mentioned scheme; and

(c) whether Government have forefeited the guarantees/bonds of defaulting companies, if so, the names thereof and in how many cases bonds/guarantees were subsequently released indicating on what basis/conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Advance licences are being issued under the advance licensing scheme in terms of the provisions of the export and Import Policy, The number of licences issued during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 & 1994-95 are as under:—

1992-93	— 21949
1993-94	— 33658
1994-95	— 45983

The details of export obligation fulfilled against these licences which are being actively monitored are as under:

	Licences surrendered/ cancelled	E.O. fulfilled by way of redemption/100% documents submitted	Licences being actively monitored
1992-93	2229	17400	2321
1993-94	3087	24165	6406
1994-95	2983	25329	17671
Total:	8299	66894	26398

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Potential of Virginia Tobacco

4003. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tabacoo Board have not paid adequate attention to the export potential of Virginia Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that sufficient incentives have not been given to the exports and manufacturers to try for increased exports of tobacco;

(c) whether a new emphasis will be given for tobacco exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Some of the steps taken by Tobacco to enhance production, productivity and quality of tobacco as an incentive to enhance exports are:—

(i) Supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/burley tobacco;

(ii) Pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries;

(iii) encouraging use of sprinkler irrigation system;

(iv) improving curing and storing facilities;

(v) arranging supply of inputs such as coal (for curing) fertilisers and suckercides, and

(vi) training and exposure of farmers to latest research findings.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Trade Relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh

4004. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expand trade relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any formal proposals have come from these countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreements have since been signed between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI